

***Congressman
J. Randy Forbes
Fourth District of Virginia***

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Forbes announces gasoline relief for Isabel victims

Washington, DC – Congressman J. Randy Forbes (VA-04) announced today that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has authorized a waiver allowing Richmond and Tidewater area gas stations to purchase and sell all types of gasoline, which has been in short supply since Hurricane Isabel hit Virginia late last week.

Forbes' office contacted the EPA on Monday to make the request for a waiver on behalf of the residents of Richmond and Tidewater regions.

"Waiting in long lines for gasoline brings frustration to motorists who are trying to get back to work, school and a sense of normalcy, and for gas station owners who are trying to run their businesses," Forbes said. "We also need to make sure that we take care of our senior citizens who depend on generators for breathing machines and other home medical equipment."

In compliance with the Clean Air Act, Richmond and Tidewater gas stations use reformulated gasoline (RFG), a cleaner-burning fuel. Since Isabel hit these regions, power outages, pipeline closures and increased demand have prevented regular delivery of RFG.

EPA's waiver will now allow all types of gasoline to be delivered to Chesterfield, Hopewell, Colonial Heights, Chesapeake and Suffolk for one week so that generators will be up and running again, and gas and service stations can meet the needs of motorists across the Fourth District.

Forbes concluded, "This waiver will help residents continue daily routines, get motorists back on the road, and put gas and service stations back in business as we continue to recover from Isabel."

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